

February 18, 2006

Dear Colleagues,

I recently wrote to all Clinical Faculty:

*“A **narrow window of opportunity** exists between now and the end of March. At that time, outside accreditors will evaluate how well the Faculty of Medicine has implemented the initial expansion of the Medical School...”*

The UCFA supports the dream of expansion. We also remain very concerned that the expansion which the UBC Faculty of Medicine is currently undertaking will not succeed.

- New funding (announced by Dean Stuart at Full Faculty Meeting Nov. 2005) was made available three months ago by the Ministries of Higher Education and Health. These funds appear to have become enmeshed in the gill-nets of the Faculty of Medicine administrative hierarchy, and no plan for their distribution has been allowed release.
- We have been told that contract physicians, even those working on purely clinical contracts with no protected time for teaching, **are specifically excluded from funding**.
- Dr Penny Ballem has made it clear that *if UBC uses any of the announced new funds for clinical teaching to pay emergency physicians on clinical contracts all of the money will be withdrawn*.

Evident gaps in planning for a well-considered, sustainable contribution from Clinical Faculty are showing now at both expansion and Lower-mainland sites, even before the next years projected large increases in students have reached their clinical rotations:

- Lacking protected time for teaching and safe clinical conditions for their patients, several Emergency Department groups are preparing to withdraw, reduce or decline teaching as of April 1, 2006.
- Frustration with a lack of planned support is building among fee-for-service surgeons, office-based clinicians, and other clinical-contract and sessionally paid doctors who have basically been asked to subsidize expansion: to teach without protected time for teaching.

In addition, the Government, Health Authorities, and UBC appear to be working behind the scenes to link hospital privileges with the **requirement** of a University Faculty appointment. This is not an idle threat. In hospitals (BCCH and VGH) where medical staff by-laws have such a link, University administrators have delayed and complicated recruitment of needed physicians by forcing the addition of academic requirements to offer-of-employment letters, without providing academic funding to pay for the academic work. Linking hospital privileges with the **requirement** of a University Faculty appointment will provide UBC with a sturdy stick by which Clinical Faculty can be induced to cooperate more enthusiastically with expansion plans.

- This month an attempt to re-establish this requirement was passed by the MAC of St Paul's Hospital. This will now be discussed by the physicians at the hospital.
  - UBC has signed affiliation agreements with all provincial hospitals (except Surrey Memorial Hospital), providing funds for bricks and mortar for hospitals to house programs for clinical bedside teaching, but not providing funding for the teaching itself.
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Wednesday morning, February 15, 2006 Dr David Wensley and I met with Dr Gavin Stuart, Dean of Medicine, letting him know that the UCFA had approached Dr David Hawkins, the secretary of the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) and the Chair of the Liaison Committee completing a Limited Site Visit from March 1 to 3, 2006. We gave him a copy of the attached letter, laying out the foundation upon which the difficulties between Clinical Faculty and UBC might be resolved. These are basically the same principles enshrined in the 2001 Memorandum of Agreement signed by then Dean of Medicine, Dean John Cairns, approved by Faculty of Medicine Executive, but not honored by UBC.

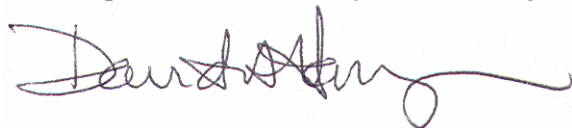
The UCFA will be providing written and verbal submissions to the visiting committee as part of the upcoming accreditation in March 2006. We are gathering submission material. If you have concerns, or anecdotes regarding your treatment as Clinical Faculty by UBC Faculty of Medicine, positive or negative, please send this to Diane Wong c/o BCMA, 115 -1665 W Broadway, Vancouver V6J 5A4 or email [dwong@bcma.bc.ca](mailto:dwong@bcma.bc.ca) for forwarding to the UCFA Board for inclusion in our submission.

*We will also on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006 be launching out a brief web-based poll (oh, no, not another survey!): the UCFA “**Survey of Resolve**” gauging your resolve, your knowledge of the issues we are discussing and your preference as to our approach. Please participate! Help us help you!*

#### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

- Keep informed of political developments. **Protect your Hospital Bylaws.**
- Please join UCFA when you send in your BCMA dues – UCFA is on the back side of the form under affiliated societies. (or send check for \$150 to Diane Wong at the BCMA). UBC dismisses UCFA because not all Clinical Faculty belong; **eliminate this argument; join UCFA**
- Identify one of your group to represent your interests to UBC. This person should not be an individual paid by UBC; he or she should be paid by the group for his or her time and thus can avoid conflict of interest. That person can join the “Friends of the UCFA Board”, and receive more detailed and current information.
- Watch for a chance to meet the accreditation team and let them know about the job UBC is doing planning for and implementing expansion!
- Send us written info about the support (or lack thereof) you receive from UBC
- Participate in the upcoming UCFA “*Survey of Resolve*”; *the link on the BCMA website will be sent to you next Friday by email.*

With respect and concern for your well-being,



David A Haughton, MD  
BCCH Emergency  
President, University Clinical Faculty Association.